

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI TOUTS CALIFORNIA AEROSPACE FOLLOWING NASA SHUTTLE LAUNCH

In recognition of the state's longstanding contributions to space exploration and research, NASA has dedicated the Space Shuttle Endeavour's STS-118 mission to California.

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi issued the following statement regarding the Wednesday launch of the Space Shuttle Endeavour on its voyage to the International Space Station.

"I am pleased to join NASA in honoring California's leadership in the aerospace, space enterprise, and other science-related industries. I also am proud to commend the two Californians who are representing our great state on board Endeavour - Mission Specialists Tracy Caldwell and Barbara Morgan. Their hard work and commitment to advancing research are an inspiration to us all.

"With its record of innovation and the expertise of its workforce, California has made an indelible impact throughout the history of our nation's illustrious space program. The Golden State is continuing to lead the way in scientific exploration and the pursuit of progress to address crucial issues such as climate change.

"However, as we celebrate California's achievements, we should also recognize the vast importance of preparing our youth for careers in aerospace, technology and other scientific and engineering fields. By ensuring that they have the skills to reach their full potential, California's students will be able to follow in the footsteps of past scientific explorers and make discoveries that will improve the lives of generations to come."

For more information about the shuttle mission, please visit www.nasa.gov.

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Contact: Norman D. Williams
Office: 916 / 445-8994